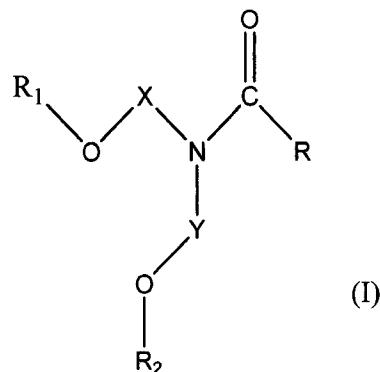


AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the present application. Changes are shown through addition and either deletion or [[deletion]].

Claims 1 – 20. Cancelled.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A vermin-repellent composition comprising a compound of formula (I),



wherein R is CH(C₄-C₄ alkyl)₂CH(C₂-C₄ alkyl)₂, whereby the two C₂-C₄ alkyl radicals are ~~of different or the same length and are, independently of each other, branched or identical and unbranched;~~

~~each of R1 and R2 are individually unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano, or nitro;~~

~~each of X and Y, independently of one another, [[is]] are a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano, or nitro; and~~

~~at least one appropriate diluent or a spreading additive.~~

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, wherein R is CH(n-C₃H₇)₂.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, wherein X and Y, independently of one another, are methylene or ethylene.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, wherein R1 and R2, independently of one another, are methyl or ethyl.

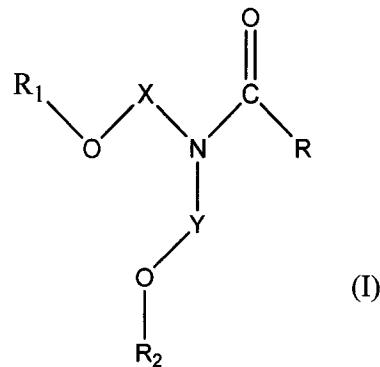
Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, wherein the compound of formula (I) is the compound 2-propyl-pentanoic acid-bis-(2-methoxyethyl)-amide.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, whereby said composition is in the form of an alcoholic solution.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, whereby said composition is in a pour-on or spot-on formulation.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 21, whereby said composition is in the form of a collar or tag.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

R1 and R2 are unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and

X and Y, independently of one another, are a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and
R is CH(C₂-C₄ alkyl)₂, whereby the two C₂-C₄ alkyl radicals are identical and unbranched.

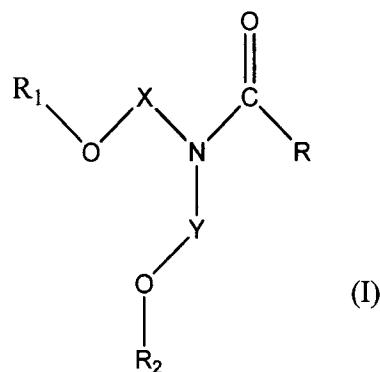
Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The compound of formula (I) according to Claim 29, wherein R is CH(n-C₃H₇)₂.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The compound of formula (I) according to Claim 29 wherein said compound is 2-propyl-pentanoic acid-bis-(2-methoxyethyl)-amide.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A method for deterring vermin from an animal, a human, or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the compound of Claim 29 which deters said vermin.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) A method for repelling vermin from an animal, a human, or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the compound of Claim 29 which repels said vermin.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) A method for deterring vermin from an animal, a human or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of a vermin-deterrant composition comprising a compound of formula (I)



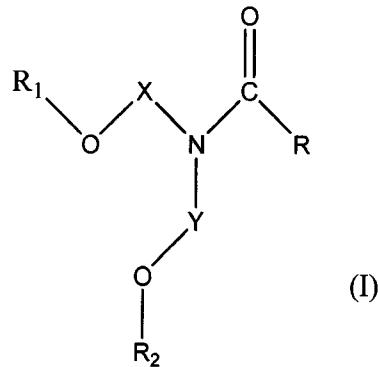
wherein

R is unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₅ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro;

each of R₁ and R₂ individually is unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro;

each of X and Y, independently of one another, is a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and at least one appropriate diluent or a spreading additive, which deters said vermin.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) A method for repelling vermin from an animal, a human or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of a vermin-repellent composition comprising a compound of formula (I)



wherein

R is unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₅ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro;

each of R1 and R2 individually is unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro;

each of X and Y, independently of one another, is a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and at least one appropriate diluent or a spreading additive, which repels said vermin.

Claim 36. Cancelled.